



Cops Protecting Kids

Amber Alert of Michigan (www.michmab.com/amberalert) is a non-profit organization that is supported by the Michigan Department of State Police, the Michigan Sheriff's Association, the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

AMBER ALERT



OF MICHIGAN

Amber Alert of Michigan acts as a liaison between law enforcement and the media, in quickly disseminating valuable information on an endangered missing child. During a Amber Alert of Michigan activation, law enforcement quickly disseminates information on a endangered missing child to the media. The media immediately broadcasts the information to the public. The public armed with this information can actively assist in the search for the endangered missing child, and report any sightings to the investigating agency. Amber Alert of Michigan is patterned after a successful program established in Texas after a young girl by the name of Amber Hagerman was abducted, raped and murdered. The media and law enforcement partnered to create the Amber Program. For more information on Amber Alert of Michigan, con-

tact the Michigan Department of State Police, Prevention Services Section, at 517-333-4006, or the Michigan Association of Broadcasters at 517-484-7444.

The Michigan Office of Attorney General, in conjunction with the U.S. Office of Attorney General, has been successfully investigating and prosecuting on-line sexual predators who victimize children. A 24-hour hotline has been created for those who have witnessed, or have information concerning, on-line child sexual exploitation (such as child-pornography, or solicitation of children for sex). Anyone with information can call 1-877-529-2373. The national tipline is 1-800-843-5678. The Department of Justice reports

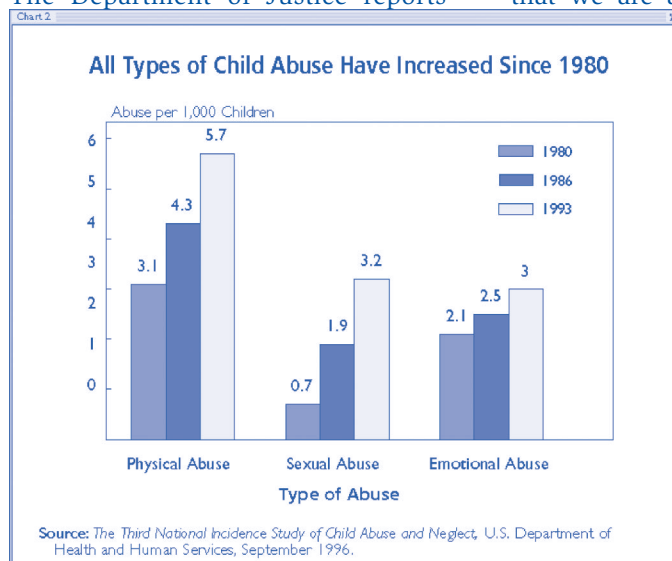
collection and public awareness. However, the fact that child fatalities due to maltreatment have increased by 12% over the past five years indicates that the increase in neglect and abuse is significant.

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University concluded a two-year study of the relationship between drug abuse and child abuse. According to the center, substance abuse causes or exacerbates seven out of ten cases of child abuse or neglect. It also concluded that the number of abused and neglected children increased from 1.4 million to more than 3 million, even though the overall crime rate was dropping, again demonstrating that we are a nation with an ever-increasing drug problem, fueling a growing population explosion of battered and neglected children.

During the decade extending from 1983 to 1993, arrests of youths for serious violent offenses surged by 70 percent; more alarmingly, the number of young people who committed a homicide nearly tripled over the course of that deadly decade.

"Youth Violence: A Report of the Surgeon General," has looked beyond arrest and other criminal justice records to reveal that the propensity for and actual involvement of youths in serious violence have not declined with arrest rates. Rather, they have remained at

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that 36% of those arrested for child pornography "already" have criminal histories for child molestation.

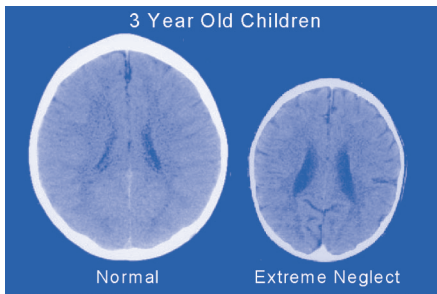
All types of child abuse have increased since 1980. Some argue that the increase in child abuse and neglect cases is not a real increase, but only a result of improved data



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the peak rates of 1993, a troublesome finding (www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/youthviolence). Could there be a connection between the increase in child abuse and the increase in juvenile crime?

Once viewed as genetically programmed, the brain is now known to be plastic, an organ molded by both genes and experience throughout life.



A single traumatic experience can alter an adult's brain: A police officer experiencing a horrifying battle, for instance, may induce flashbacks, depression and hair-trigger response of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). And researchers are finding that abuse and neglect early in life can have even more devastating consequences, leaving the victim child at risk for psychiatric problems later in life, making them more prone to drug abuse, suicide, promiscuity, crime and violence. Pervasive media violence and bullying are "new" factors creating debilitating fear and trauma in our children.

Abuse and neglect during childhood can leave a physical scar on the developing brain, possibly a result of the constant barrage of stress hormones. Psychiatrist Daniel Amen has studied, through the imaging technique called SPECT, the living brains of society's most violent felons (i.e., serial rapist, mass killers, etc.). While some of these very violent criminals can be quite intelligent, without exception, all show reduced activity in the prefrontal cortex (seat of judgment and thoughtfulness), overactivity in the anterior cingulate gyrus (the brain's gearshift, which allows it to segue from one thought to another), and abnormalities in the left temporal lobe (involved in mood and temper control). "If you have a left-temporal-lobe problem, you have dark, awful, violent thoughts," says Amen. "If you have cingulate-gyrus

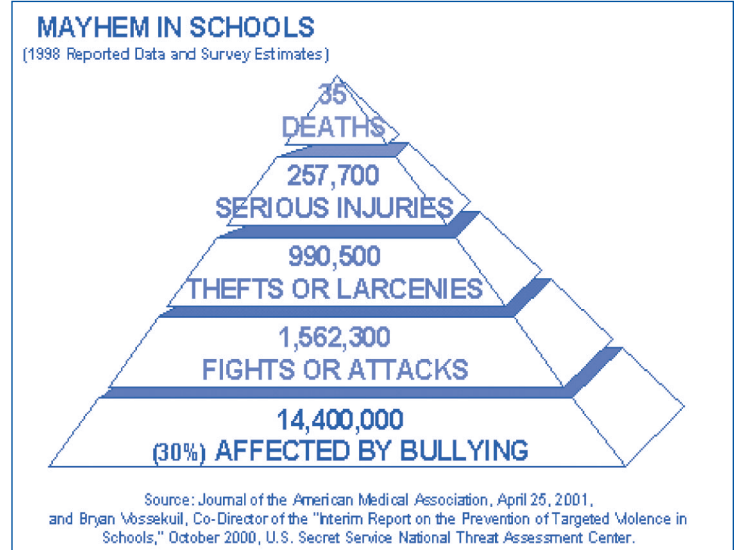
problem as well, you get stuck on the bad thoughts. And if you have a prefrontal-cortex problem, you can't supervise the bad thoughts you get stuck on."

To combat child abuse, the Vancouver Police Department has developed a program in which a police officer and an agent of the child protection agency team up to supervise investigations, and act as first responders on all serious calls of child abuse or neglect. This team concept is effective because the child protective agent has the authority to monitor family problems and remove children, and the police officer has the authority to investigate other criminal problems that often contribute to the child abuse or neglect problem.

The Fresno Police Department, in conjunction with the Probation Department and the School District, started a program to train adult volunteers to become the eyes protecting children to and from schools (many became marked traffic guards equipped with cell phones or radios). In addition, city workers, bus drivers, letter carriers, and other community workers were trained how to identify and respond to suspicious situations, such as single males sitting in parked cars along busy student walkways.



Another part of the program is the partnering up of police and probation officers on each high school campus to enforce, supervise and counsel juvenile probationers within the school system. The improvement in



campus safety has been dramatic. The first year the teams confiscated 49 firearms; the following year there were no guns discovered in any of the schools – the word is out about strict enforcement. Michigan now has a school safety tipline that anyone can call with information concerning crime or potential violence at any school in Michigan: 1-800-815-8477.

Another byproduct of increased child abuse has been the increase in bullying. Since abusive and neglectful parents are usually part of the reason why kids bully, police have trouble changing the behavior of bullies due to lack of support. If this is the case, the police officer must assume responsibility and act decisively to stop the bullying. Remember what it felt like after the September 11th terrorist attack: fear, anger, then powerlessness – this is also how a child feels if they are victims of bullying. *Bullying is terrorism.* Bullying is also a crime, often taking the form of Malicious Destruction of Property; Extortion; Assault; Assault and Battery; Threats; Stalking; Larceny; etc. When parents and school counseling do not stop the bully, it is the police officer's responsibility to protect the victim, and this may mean requesting charges against the perpetrator. Request that the bully be placed on probation so

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COUNTER-TERRORISM CONTINGENCY PLANS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Contingency Plans for a Terrorist Attack

As we currently focus on preventing attacks by foreign terrorists, we must not overlook the many other terrorist threats that exist. Unfortunately, there are many groups or individuals with a grudge out to punish the world. So we must be prepared for all possibilities involving potentially high risk targets, such as government buildings, schools, sporting events, churches, malls, industrial plants, power plants and other public utilities, or anywhere else Americans gather in large groups.

Developing counter-terrorism contingency plans for various facilities will require the unique abilities of ES or SWAT units. However, just because a SWAT officer develops the plan doesn't mean it will be a SWAT response. While SWAT teams are still essential for barricaded gunmen, or raids and warrant executions where police control the timing, too often today terrorist attacks turn out NOT to be a SWAT mission. The reason is simple – TIME. Columbine, for example, was over in about 16 minutes. The usual "containment and wait for SWAT" scenario doesn't apply if the intruder/terrorist is actively attacking or killing innocent people. Even with full time teams, when you factor in the time to route the call and get everyone moving,

it's going to be over before SWAT can get there. The only solution is to train EVERY officer as a SWAT first-responder. This means that aside from their emergency response mission, all SWAT members need to become CONTINGENCY PLANNERS and FIRST-RESPONDER INSTRUCTORS.

In active shooting situations, the first responding officer must be trained to identify an assembly area, and an initial entry point if there is a facility or building involved. Moreover, the first responding officers will likely be from different departments, so police agencies that share a geographic area need to get past their rivalries and START TRAINING TOGETHER. The basic version is the first four officers go in, the biggest guns are fore and aft, with two side-gunners. SWAT gear needs to be ready to go, in the patrol car trunk of every car. Every patrol officer needs to be trained, equipped, and ready to go. When there's killing going on, FAST ENTRY and FAST ACTION is the only option!

Of course, there is a risk to this rapid entry strategy. The entry team may be vulnerable to bombs, or walking into an ambush. The probability of this is low, but real. This is nothing new for first responders. The defender's job has always been to move toward the sound of the guns – to go in harm's way – a risk that police officers willingly take. And most cops would swap their lives for the life of an innocent citizen or child, any day! BUT, if we go into an active terrorist situation with adequate body armor, shields, and TRAINING, the odds are that any experienced patrol officer will out-think and out-fight a terrorist/criminal, living to fight another day.

Part of terrorism training for first responders MUST include practical exercises, especially at high-risk buildings or facilities. But to do this, you must first create a contingency plan for the facility. This differs from the emergency plan a facility may already have for natural disasters. When a trained SWAT officer conducts a THREAT ASSESSMENT or RECON, they are specifically planning for a raid or a rescue under threat or attack by a hostile party. While such a recon can be done discretely, there CAN be great value in doing a recon during normal hours. Many potential killers are on the inside, within the organization, and will be deterred if they see uniformed police walking around the building, showing serious concern and diligence in their anti-terrorism efforts.

Killers and terrorists are truly cowards. The September 11th terrorists used suicide to escape life's hardships. Anyone can kill themselves, it's easy. But living a long righteous life, that's tough. It takes a lot of work and sacrifice. Terrorists fear the strength of righteous opposition; they would rather stab innocent people in the back when they're not looking. Then they can proclaim to the world that they are unhappy campers. The shooter in the Los Angeles Jewish daycare center in 1999 looked at two other such sites before he found one without security. Timothy McVeigh, the self-proclaimed warrior, tried to "sneak-out" of Oklahoma after planting his bomb. If we can HARDEN the target, and TRAIN ourselves in the process, we can DETER a lot of these potential killer/cowards, or at least respond to them with certain resolve and effectiveness.

Ideally, a handful of SWAT officers recon a facility independently, checking different areas, and then compare notes. Then they make a CONFIDENTIAL plan for various possible threats. They should:

- Discuss and observe possible APPROACH ROUTES and ASSEM-



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BLY AREAS for responding police officers.

- Discuss how you would handle a SHOOTING or BOMBING.
- Think carefully about where to position a POLICE SNIPER to get maximum coverage/supporting fire.
- If adequate personnel are available, plan for PERIMETER SECURITY (so the shooter(s) can't escape when the team goes in).
- Other available officers should be assigned to secure and PROTECT FLEEING VICTIMS.
- Make the plans (routes, assembly areas and checklists) quickly accessible in the DISPATCH CENTER, which will likely need to coordinate the response during an active shooting situation.

After completing the RECON, it is important that the SWAT officers familiarize all local patrol officers with the contingency plan and the layout of the facility. Some schools and factories, for instance, are huge. Responding police can waste a lot of valuable time if they are unfamiliar with a facility. SWAT instructors should arrange for tours and periodic walk-throughs so that all police personnel can learn building layouts, just like they learn street layouts in their area. Unannounced, periodic visits also serve as a great deterrent. In these days of terrorism, POLICE FOOT PATROLS THROUGH HIGH-RISK BUILDINGS SHOULD BECOME AS COMMON AS POLICE ROAD PATROLS THROUGH HIGH-CRIME NEIGHBORHOODS.

After putting together the terrorist contingency plan, SWAT instructors should arrange a time when they can DISCRETELY teach patrol officers how to conduct a response. Since all patrol officers from the various departments in the area need a chance to train together, exercises need to be scheduled periodically, at various sites, throughout the year. This can best be done if SWAT instructors from all LOCAL departments form a cooperative training CONSORTIUM.

Another important part of a contingency plan is educating the people who use the facility on what they can

do to enhance their own survival, as well as help police. This too should include practical exercises or drills. If there is a TERRORIST INTRUSION, your guidance should be twofold:

- First, IF IT CAN BE DONE SAFELY, GET OUT of the building. If that's not possible, lock yourself in a room, hide, or take cover the best you can. Most often, these killers are not out to take hostages.
- Secondly, when police enter the building, occupants need to hit the deck and STAY DOWN until told otherwise. Police need to focus their attention on the terrorist/threat. People need to understand that running toward police or screaming for help only distracts officers, and makes them an easy target for the terrorist.

Another very important part of the drill includes having personnel actually dial the phone to report emergencies. Remember, most phones within a facility require dialing a number to get an outside line, and THEN dialing 911, so this MUST be rehearsed.

Since evacuation plans already exist in most facilities in case of fire or bomb threat, all police need to do is add one new drill/option to the plan, and a signal for the execution of that plan. The very WORST thing that can happen is to condition people to secure themselves in an unsecurable location, like the Columbine High library; may we NEVER forget the lessons learned from THAT tragic mass murder. We need to be alert for secondary strikes. Assembly locations should provide cover and options. DON'T trap escaping victims in the middle of a big killing field (parking lot) with no place close to run.

RECENTLY, three high school student "avengers" in New Bedford, Mass, intent on being "BIGGER THAN COLUMBINE," were arrested on November 24th, after a custodian

found a letter outlining their plot, and a landlord of a building not far from the school found a box with bomb-making materials. As with other school terrorists, these kids felt slighted, and were going to target faculty, jocks, preppy kids, and minorities (which means they hated just about everyone). An acquaintance of the suspects told detectives that the plan was to use handguns, shotguns, and pipe bombs in the attack.

MOST ALARMING, the young terrorists planned on DETONATING EXPLOSIVES, THEN SHOOTING CLASS-



MATES AS THEY EVACUATED! Obviously, these juvenile conspirators were going to take advantage of the schools emergency procedures and use them against the innocent students. As with most of the terrorist we are dealing with today, these student terrorists were planning on killing themselves so they could not be apprehended by police. Like Columbine, the student conspirators planned to use their black trenchcoats to conceal their weapons. They also planned on using walkie-talkies to coordinate their attack.

There were other indicators that "should have" raised concern. One suspect had "I hate the world," "Everyone must die," and "Kill everyone," written on the bedroom wall. Incriminating evidence found in another suspect's bedroom included an ax, a meat cleaver, various knives, a binder with bomb recipes, duct tape, wire, dozens of spent cartridges, a voodoo doll with nails and nooses, along with photographs of Adolf Hitler. Despite the evidence, one suspect's mother protested and "continued to portray the charges as a misunderstanding that police

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have targeted 'great kids.' How can parents permit their kids to collect weapons and symbols of hatred, and write this kind of stuff on the wall (self-expression?), and then be in total denial that there could be anything wrong?

Whether the would-be terrorists would have actually carried out their threat or not, perhaps we can take a lesson from this NEAR TRAGEDY, before the next group of killers is able to complete their mission: Obviously, both police and citizens must have MULTIPLE CONTINGENCY PLANS, and be prepared to read the chaos and adjust accordingly.

Emergency Response to a Suspicious Trespasser *

As part of the high state of alert against terrorism that police officers will be working under for some time, there will likely be an increased number of INVESTIGATORY DETENTIONS in response to suspicious trespassers in and around high risk areas. As a police officer, if you see someone on private property that seems to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, the law allows you to question suspicious people and circumstances by doing the following:

1. INVESTIGATORY DETENTION: While you cannot arrest someone for trespassing unless they refuse to leave, you CAN detain them for a reasonable time to ascertain if they have committed a crime, IF you can articulate a reasonable suspicion that a crime is afoot, warranting a search of the area. For instance: Is it unusual to see people in this private area, or at this time? Did the trespass require climbing over a fence or going through a door marked private? Is the person doing anything unusual? Do they appear to be looking for something? Are they trying to open something? Did they immediately start walking away from you once they saw you were a police officer? Are they carrying a suitcase or anything else unusual?
2. TERRY PAT-DOWN: If you are detaining a trespasser because (1) you have reasonable suspicion

a crime is afoot, then you CAN conduct a Terry pat-down IF (2) you can articulate reasonable suspicion that the suspect could be armed and dangerous. For instance: Did they hesitate when you requested them to stop? Are they acting nervous or threatening in any way? What are they saying? Were there any recent warnings or reports of dangerous occurrences that fit this situation? Do you see bulges under their clothing indicating the possibility of a concealed weapon?

3. ASK FOR THEIR IDENTIFICATION: But unless the subject is driving a car, PEOPLE DO NOT have an obligation to provide identification during an investigatory detention. However, an officer can certainly ask for ID.
4. CHECK THE FACILITY: While the subject(s) is being detained, another officer should check the private property area for anything unusual. Depending on the type of facility or property, it may be necessary to call in the assistance of the facility manager or curator. If you find something unusual, remember it could be evidence or something dangerous, so don't touch it unless there are extenuating reasons to do so.

* Consult with your local prosecutor for additional guidance. *Terry v. Ohio*, 392 U.S. 1 (1968), is the main precedent for investigatory detentions. Additional precedent has been set by: *People v. Chambers*, 195 Mich. App. 118 (1992); *People v. Zuccarini*, 172 Mich. App. 11 (1998); and *Risbridger v. Connelly*, 122 F. Supp. 2d 857 (2000).

The war on terrorism will be a prolonged struggle, testing the determination and fortitude of police. The need for police to increase the security checks of PEOPLE and PLACES increases two responsibilities. First, police must be doubly prepared for a SUDDEN ATTACK when they confront a suspicious person. Second, this high alert status must not detract from the RESPECT and COURTESY that police show to people.

The Associated Press recently reported a case where two U.S. CITIZENS, of Middle Eastern descent, raised suspicion by videotaping the Great

Lakes shipping locks in Sault Ste. Marie. Investigators found they had "legitimate reasons for doing what they were doing." Regardless of their race or appearance, this situation merited a security check. But we must not let the need for security damage the very rights that police are sworn to protect. Complaints of racial profiling of Arab Americans and people who look Middle Eastern have surged since the September 11th attack. To stay RIGHTEOUS, and WITHIN THE LAW, police need to let circumstances guide their judgment. And even in a potentially risky situation, a police officer can be polite without endangering themselves.

Conclusion

While the odds are in a police officer's favor, police know they must keep safety in mind because you never know what the next incident could contain. Sound TRAINING and TACTICS will usually protect you. Police have planned out what it takes to protect themselves, now they need to make CONTINGENCY PLANS to protect the public. And remember, while it's important to prepare for new threats, THE OLD THREATS have not gone away!

FOR MORE INFORMATION on this critical topic, the Michigan State Police Emergency Management Division has a schedule of training programs on the web at www.msp.state.mi.us/division/emd/terrosm/training.htm, as well as an "On-Scene Commander's Guide for Responding to Biological/Chemical Threats" on the web at www.msp.state.mi.us/division/emd/terrosm/planning.htm. EMD is also mailing all PD's a guidebook for handling suspicious mail. The Law Enforcement Resource Center at the MSP Academy also has three new training videos regarding terrorism: "Terrorism First Response," "Bomb Threat," and "Incident Command System;" police can check these out by calling 517-322-5624. ■

Sources for this article: Michigan State Police Emergency Management Division; Michigan State Police Emergency Support Unit; Michigan State Police Legal Training Unit; and Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, U.S. Army (ret.).

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that their behavior can be “tracked,” and ask that the entire family be ordered into counseling. Do Not counsel the bully “with” the victim, as some misguided programs have suggested. Forcing them together can devastate the victim further. The victim needs therapy so they can build self-esteem, confidence, and deal with their anger. The bully needs therapy to develop empathy, compassion, and self-discipline. Warn the bully’s family that they could be sued if the bullying continues. Bullies do understand punishment. But punishment alone works no better than explanation alone. What works is punishment accompanied by counseling.

Police must also be cognizant that there is a procedural difference between “informal” counseling of a bully as a school liaison officer, or interrogating the bully as part of a “formal” complaint because the problem is continuing or worsening despite counseling. Remember, if a juvenile is now to be considered as an offender, they shall only be interrogated after obtaining permission from a parent or guardian. (It is the policy of the Michigan State Police that officers “shall” have parents present during juvenile interrogations, despite recent court cases that have narrowly allowed private

interrogations when there is parental consent.) Note that P.A. 102 requires that schools proactively cooperate with police to address acts of aggression, and any other crime.

Public Act 102, passed in 1999, was enacted so that each school board, county prosecutor, and local law enforcement agency will meet, confer, and implement a “school safety information policy” (the deadline was January of 2000!). This policy shall identify the types of incidents that “must” be reported to law enforcement, and what procedures will be followed. The Act requires that if a pupil in grade 6 or above commits a physical assault (or attempt) against another pupil, the school boards “shall” expel the subject. Moreover: Each school board “shall” report, at least annually, to the superintendent, all incidents of crime occurring at schools within the district. The complete Act can be seen at: www.michiganlegislature.org/PAs.asp.

Police departments within Livingston County of Michigan, the Prosecutor’s Office, and the Juvenile Court, have developed a working relationship with Big Brothers Big Sisters to help deal with the growing population of juvenile offenders. Local law enforcement agencies submit their warrant requests for juvenile offenders in

the usual manner, but then the prosecutor screens out the non-violent misdemeanor first offenders. These cases are referred to Big Brothers Big Sisters for possible diversion. If parents agree to the terms, and the juvenile offender pays a small fee, then the offender can go into diversion “instead” of being charged. Big Brothers Big Sisters arrange



for the community service, supervises it, and maintains all records relating to the diversion.

According to Lt. Michael Murphy of the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office, this system allows for extended juvenile diversion without taking police off the road or tying up other criminal justice personnel. A juvenile who fails to fulfill the diversion contract is reverted back to the usual judicial, punitive process.

There are many innovative ways for police to protect kids, teach delinquents accountability, and help take those who prey on children off the street. Can you think of any? Share your ideas with the Michigan State Police Prevention Services Section, 517-333-4006. ■

The Real Meaning of “Jihad”

In the November 2001 edition of Faith magazine, the Catholic Diocese of Lansing interviewed Iman Soubani of the Islamic Center of East Lansing, about the real meaning of “Jihad,” the Muslim term equated with goodness and courage.

According to Soubani: “What Jihad means is to do your best to correct evil in yourself, in your family, in the street, with others, by means which are appropriate – and hopefully by word of mouth, by showing the right way and pointing to what should be done, and if not, by disassociating yourself from wrong. The struggle against evil in the world, that is called ‘Small Jihad.’ ‘Big Jihad,’ that is when you struggle to correct yourself. The Taliban...they translate Jihad wrongly as ‘holy war.’ I’ve read

the Koran. I’ve read its teachings. We find ‘unfortunate war’ or ‘disliked war.’ I’ve never found ‘holy war.’

Soubani goes on to say that, “The Taliban are not enlightened persons. The Taliban are not following smartly the teachings of Islam. Just like what happened in Waco, Texas, you cannot call them Christians, really Christians – because Christianity calls for love. You cannot call this person (Koresh)



a good Christian, because he’s ill-advised, and doesn’t understand what Christianity is about. That’s why we can’t blame Christianity for him, and so we should not blame Islam for the wrong actions of the few.”

In agreement with Soubani, Pope John Paul II said the events unleashed by the September 11th terrorist attack are not religious in nature, nor is it a “clash of religions,” because such violence is “a contradiction of the very essence of religion...Believers know that, far from doing evil, they are obliged to do good, to work to alleviate human suffering, to build together a just and harmonious world.” ■